THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) After wooden slippers have spent their useful life in the track and become unfit for use in Railway tracks, they are put to other uses or disposed off as scrap.

Doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore rail line

2846. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took urgent steps to complete the ongoing doubling of rail line between Shoranur and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure safety of Rail bridges on this route, after the collapse of bridge at Kadulundi;

(d) how many new bridges are going to be constructed on this line; and

(e) the details regarding the progress of this construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work is in progress in various stages in entire section. Necessary funds have been allocated for the work in the current year.

(c) The bridges are being inspected at various levels from Section Engineer level to Chief Engineer level as per prescribed schedule and system and repairs are being carried out promptly and action taken to rehabilitate bridges on programmed basis subject to availability of funds.

(d) and (e) 14 bridges are sanctioned for rehabilitation on this section and are in various stages of progress.

Doubling of Bina and Ashok Nagar Rail Line

2847. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passengers at Bina Railway Station, from all over India, have to wait for several hours for going to Anandpur (M.P.) due to single rail line between Bina and Ashok Nagar;

(b) whether Government propose to double the rail line between Bina and Ashok Nagar; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The passengers do not have to wait inordinately at Bina station due to single rail line between Bina and Ashok Nagar as a large number of train connections are available.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

Policy for stoppage of Rajdhani Express

†2848. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy for stoppage of Rajdhani Express has been formulated;

(b) whether there is any policy to make only one stoppage in each State;

(c) the reasons for not providing stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Gwalior; and

(d) whether any demand has been received for making stoppage of these trains at Gwalior; if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Stoppage of Rajdhani Express is provided after taking into account the need for preserving the suarudistinctive and exclusive character of Rajdhani Express trains, the quantum as well as the pattern of traffic obtaining at the station, availability of suitable alternative services catering to the traffic demand of the station and other operational and commercial considerations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some representations regarding stoppage of 2429/2430 Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express and 2433/2434 Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express at Gwalior have been received and examined but not found implementable at present for lack of commercial and operational feasibility as also to retain the exclusive character of these Rajdhani Express trains.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.